



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **Recreational Harvest of Blueline Tilefish in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on June 10, 2015**

Recreational harvest of blueline tilefish in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) June 10, 2015**. On March 30, 2015, NOAA Fisheries published a final rule which reduced the blueline tilefish annual catch limit from 111,893 pounds whole weight to 17,791 pounds whole weight. Landing reports indicate the revised annual catch limit has been exceeded.

On March 30, 2015, NOAA Fisheries also specified that the recreational season is from May through August each year unless closed through an in-season closure. Therefore, in 2016, the recreational sector for blueline tilefish is closed from January 1 through April 30 and September 1 through December 31. The recreational harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on May 1, 2016.

During the closure:

- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for a person onboard a vessel with a federal snapper-grouper permit.
- The commercial sector for blueline tilefish closed to harvest on April 7, 2015.
- Sale and purchase of blueline tilefish in or from federal waters is prohibited.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.